



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term 2018,

I am very excited to begin a new year with your children! I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know them over the past few days. We are very lucky to have Mrs Houston and Mrs Prior with us this year to support our learning. Our topic this term is "The Vikings", which is closely linked to our class novel "Viking Boy". The children enjoyed their introductory lesson to the novel, which will help to inform our English and Maths.

PE

The children will be swimming every Friday for this term. They will be one-hour long sessions, and will therefore be ending at the end of this short term. Please ensure that your child has a swimming kit, and also please note that if they would like to wear goggles, written permission is required from you in advance. Please ensure that your children have their P.E kits with them all week, as timetable changes to sometimes happen. Children can take their kits home with them after school on Fridays for them to be changed or washed ready for Monday morning.

Home learning

Please remember that throughout Key Stage Two it is really important for the children to read at home every day, just for 10 minutes. It makes such a clear difference to their English learning and ability in school, and obviously although we will hear your child read regularly through guided reading groups, we cannot hear every child read every day. We would really like to make the most of your child's learning opportunities at school and we are sure you would too; confidence in reading improves their access to learning.

Times tables are extremely useful in terms of helping the children with their maths. It would be much appreciated if you could ensure that the children are practicing these regularly, which will greatly benefit them in the classroom! In Year 5, we use our times



tables up to 12x, and therefore it is very important that children feel confident with this. They should continue to have access to 'Times Tables Rockstars' to help their learning and fluency.

Communication

Please make sure that children have their blue books/reading records with them every school-day. They are the best form of communication between staff and yourselves, and enable us to see what great things the children have been getting up to outside of school! Mrs Prior will be looking at the books every morning.

Latin

The children are being given the fantastic opportunity to learn an ancient foreign language. This gives them a linguistic foundation to study languages at secondary school and will also help their spelling, punctuation and grammar. Class teachers are being supported by a specialist teacher from Cokethorpe school.

Greenpower

'Greenpower' aims to inspire children to take an interest in engineering in a fun and innovative way. Our year fives have been involved in this for a number of years now and we are extremely lucky to have Mr Kenyon come into school most Friday afternoons to steer the project. The project is for children to build their very own functioning and drivable electric car. The kit comes flat packed with step by step instruction guiding the team through the build in an easy to understand manner. The build introduces children to basic mechanics and on completion the children get to take part in a summer term race event against other teams watched by parents. The build is integrated in to the curriculum where possible to highlight key areas such as friction, electricity, materials, maths and design technology - whilst being a fun and hands on activity for children to be a part of. Last year's photos and information are on our school website so please take a look!

If you have any concerns I am available after school, or you can make an appointment to see me through the school office or your child's Reading Record.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Weekes, Mrs Prior and Mrs Houston